FOWEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1961

W. J. JORY & SON, PRINTERS, FOWEY

To:-

THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF FOWEY.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1961.

I am indebted to Mr. Little of Fowey Grammar School for the weather report and to Mr. Birkett, Public Health Inspector, for other portions of this Report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JAS. TURNER,
Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	2,979
Population (mid year)	...	...	2,100
Number of inhabited houses		...	1,030
Rateable Value	...	...	£34,739
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	£137

Live Births				Rate/1000 Population	
	Male	**Female**	**Total**	**Fowey**	**England & Wales**
Legitimate	14	10	25	11.9	
Illegitimate	1	0			
Rate corrected for comparison with other areas				12.6	17.4
Illegitimate births % of total live births				4.0	
Still Births				Rate/1000 live and still births	
Legitimate	3	0	3	107.	18.7
Illegitimate	0	0			
Total Live and Still Births					
	18	10	28		
Infant Deaths					
Legitimate	0	0	0		
Illegitimate	0	0			
Rate per 1000 total live births				0.0	21.4
,, ,, ,, legitimate				0.0	
,, ,, ,, illegitimate				0.0	
Neo-natal Deaths				Rate/1000 Live Births	
Under 4 weeks	0	0	0	0.0	15.5
Early neo-natal deaths					
Under 1 week	0	0	0	0.0	13.7
Peri-natal deaths				Rate/1000 Live and Still Births	
Still births and deaths under 1 week	3	0	3	107.	32.2

Maternal Deaths	0	0	0	0.0	0.33

Deaths (all ages and causes) Rate, 1000 Population

	20	19	39	18.7
Corrected for comparison with other areas				16.0	12.0

The following table gives the numbers dying in each age group

Age Group	Numbers ;	Males	Females
0 - 1	...	0	0
1 - 59	...	3	1
60 - 69	...	4	5
70 - 79	...	9	7
80 - 89	...	4	6
90 +	..	0	0

The average age at death for males was 71.0 years and for females 70.2 years.

The vital records shew little or no improvement over the past thirty years as the following table indicates :-

	Birth Rate uncorrected	Still birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1932-41	9.3 (14.7)	45.7 (40)	33.5 (58.5)
1942-51	15.3 (17.0)	21.5 (27)	28.2 (43.0)
1952-61	10.7 (16.0)	43.5 (22)	41.3 (23.9)

The figures in brackets are those for the United Kingdom.

The relatively small numbers being considered are liable to cause wide swings in the rates.

The following is a list of the causes of death :

		Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	0	0	0
2.	„ other ...	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping cough ...	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infections ...	0	0	0
7.	Acute poliomyelitis ...	0	0	0
8.	Measles ...	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
11.	„ „ lung, bronchus	0	1	1
12.	„ „ breast	0	0	0
13.	„ „ uterus	0	0	0
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	4	2	6
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes	2	0	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	4	5
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	3	2	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	0	0	0
20.	Other heart disease... ...	2	2	4
21.	Other circulatory diseases ...	1	1	2
22.	Influenza	1	0	1
23.	Pneumonia	0	1	1
24.	Bronchitis ...	2	1	3
25.	Other diseases of the respiratory system	0	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
28.	Nephritis, and nephrosis ...	0	0	0
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	0	0	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations ...	0	0	0
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	3	6
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ...	0	0	0
34.	All other accidents	0	1	1
35.	Suicide	0	0	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
	All causes :	20	19	39

There were no infant deaths.

SECTION A.

Area (2,979 acres) The district consists of the estuarine Town of Fowey, the Hamlets of Newtown, Polkerris and Polmear, and a large rural background. China Clay is exported from the Port in large quantities, and the Town is yearly increasing in popularity as a Seaside Resort, for Summer visitors. These two combine to make the principle industries.

Population. The Registrar General's population figure for 1961 was 2,100. The temporary Summer population is estimated to add another 3,000.

Meteorlogical Data.

1961	Mean Max. Mean Min.	Abs. Mean	Highest Max. Lowest Min.	Rain dys Wet dys Very wet dys	Greatest fall in day	Tot. rain	Other factors and remarks
JAN.	49	44	56/27th	25		6.33	Gales 26th, 27th; Hail 2nd, 3rd, 31st
				19	1.02/24th		Sleet 25th; Air Frost 5th, 11th, 12th
	39	44	32/5th,7th	12		3.98	Thunder 31st. Mainly mild and rainy
FEB.	51	48	58/18th	16		3.74	Fog 12th; Gale 26th. Very mild for
				13	1.09 (23rd)		February with no min.temp. below
	45	44	40/28th	6		2.90	40o F. Winds mainly from Atlantic.
MAR.	55	49	59 10th,26th	3		0.10	Fog 7th, 8th, 9th, 15th; Air frost 20th
				1	0.06 29th		No anticyclonic weather with E wind
	42	45	30/20th	0		2.76	No cold spells. Exceptionally dry
APRIL	57	53	63 17th,29th	20		4.36	Fog on 12th; Gale on 25th
				17	0.68 5th		
	48	48	41 11th	9		2.19	Warmer and more rainy than usual
MAY	61	53	68/25th	8		0.90	Fog on 4th
				6	0.20 1st		
	46	53	39 28th	1		2.44	Dry, otherwise normal
JUNE	66	59	74/30th	8		0.69	
				6	0.17/9th,12th		Dry, with light winds
	52	58	44 14th	0		1.95	
JULY	68	61	78 1st	9		2.33	Thunder 1st; Gale 14th; Fog 20th
				8	0.61 12th		Started dry and sunny: a wet week
	55	61	45 30th	4		2.61	11th to 17th, then mainly dry.
AUG.	67	61	74 31st	16		3.23	Gale 7th; Fog 4th, 25th. Not a good
				11	1.44 10th		month, too many wet days. Severe
	55	61	47 7th	3		2.92	gale 7th–8th, ¼in rain; downpour 10th
SEPT.	66	61	72/1st	15		3.18	Fog on 2nd; Gales on 16th, 28th.
				9	0.74 13th		Continuing unsettled
	55	59	43 26th	7		2.79	
OCT.	59	54	65 14th	23		5.51	
				21	0.64 6th		Mild and very rainy
	49	53	37 30th	13		3.89	
NOV.	52	48	59 1st,2nd	17		1.76	Fog on 1st. Gale on 30th
				14	0.26 7th		One long dry spell, 11th to 20th
	43	47	33/26th	2		4.24	
DEC.	49	44	58 10th,12th	17		3.77	Hail 5th; Sleet 6th; Snowshower 31st
				14	0.69 7th		Air Frost 7th, 28th, 29th. Very cold
	39	45	26 28th	9		4.16	on 27th and 28th, otherwise normal

NOTES Temperatures to nearest degree Farenheit. Rain inches: Rain days .01 or more; Wet days .04 or more; Very wet days .20 or more. Averages as given from M.O.3.

SECTION B

Public Health Officers

(a) Medical Officer of Health: J. G. S. TURNER, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.P.H.
1/1/61 - 31/12/61 Tel. St. Austell 2206
Area Health Office,
Moorland Road, St. Austell.

(b) Public Health Inspector (part time):
A. J. BIRKETT, M.R.S.I. 1/1/61 - 31/12/61

Laboratory Facilities

All investigations are carried out at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where material is sent for investigation.

Prophylaxis of Infectious Disease

In addition to the usual diphtheria prophylactics, supplies of whooping cough vaccine and of tetanus toxoid are available in various combinations and can be obtained by Medical Practitioners at the Area Office, St. Austell. Oral Poliomyelitis vaccine is now available in quantity.

Nursing in the home

There is one District Nurse - Midwife - Health Visitor for the area.

Domestic Help Service

The establishment is the equivalent of two full-time helps A total of 8 persons were aided, all of whom suffered from. chronic illness.

Maternity and Child Welfare

All mothers and children are visited in their homes by the Nurse. Expectant mothers attend the Clinic in St. Austell.

Hospitals

The Town has a small 13 bedded hospital. Patients requiring specialised treatment go to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary in Truro, or to Redruth.

Clinics

Practically all the special clinics are held in St. Austell, either at the hospital or at Moorland Road.

SECTION C.

Water

In June of the year the Fowey River Scheme came into operation, and an immediate bulk supply was taken by the Borough. Local sources were then gradually cut off, until at the end of the year only the Jetties at Fowey were being supplied from local sources, and orders had been placed for this one source to be disconnected. Before the Fowey River Scheme came into operation local supplies ran very low, and restrictions on use were imposed throughout the Borough. Polkerris village has a private piped water supply which can be supplemented from the Town's Main Supply in case of drought.

(a) i With the exception of the shortage which occurred before June supplies have been normal.

ii Bacteriologically all local sources have been found unsatisfactory, and have, as stated, been discontinued.

(b) Prior to the inception of the Fowey River Scheme, local supplies were chlorinated. No proper chlorinator was available for use, and the method adopted was that of "drip feed." With the constant variation in quality and quantity of water from the various sources, and in the absence of any pre-treatment, bacteriological results were frequently unsatisfactory. 10 samples of local supplies were taken, five of which were unsatisfactory. No chemical analyses were taken.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Chlorination increased; collection areas surveyed for possible pollution, and the disconnecting completely of local sources as the Fowey River Scheme became available for u e.

(e) Number of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains

	Direct	Standpipes
	950	8
Number of population supplied	2250	20

Drainage.

All outfall sewers drain to the beaches, where they discharge without treatment. Many of these outfalls are in a defective condition, and minor repairs only have been carried out. During heavy storms the Borough sewers, which are dual purpose, become overloaded, and occasional flooding occurs in the Town Quay area. A relief storm water sewer is urgently needed, particularly in view of the intended housing development in the area. At Polkerris minor repairs were carried out to the temporary sewer

running across the beach. This sewer gives continuous trouble, due to the movement of the beach. It would be wise to consider a scheme to relay both the beach sewer on a stable line, to re-drain the existing property in Polkerris, and to incorporate some form of pre-treatment before discharge to the sea.

Public Cleansing

Collection methods remain as in previous years. Refuse continues to become lighter and bulkier.

Disinfections Nil.

Rodent Control. There were no major infestations reported. All complaints have been dealt with, and sewers regularly treated.

Conveniences.

Public conveniences within the Borough - 7 ladies
8 gents

SECTION D. HOUSING

Slum Clearance

16 dwellings were in the process of being built at the end of the year at Green Lane, these being principally for the re-housing of tenants of Huts on the Windmill Estate. These comprise 8 two-bedroom bungalows and 8 two-bedroom houses.

New Houses

9 new houses were completed during the year and 3 houses were under construction at the end of the year.

Repairs and Re-conditioning

7 standard grants were authorised during the year, and private reconditioning etc., continued throughout the period.

SECTION E.

Ice Cream

There are 25 retailers, but no manufacturers within the Borough.

Food Premises

55 visits of inspection were made to registered food premises. No complaints were received from the general public.

Condemned Foodstuffs

189 lbs. of canned and fresh meats and 302 lbs. other foodstuff were condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption.

SECTION F

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other diseases.

Disease	No. of Cases	Rate/1000 population Fowey Borough	England & Wales
	1961	1961	1961
Measles	3	1.5	16.5

Smallpox Vaccination. During the year there were 47 primary and re-vaccinations.
37 of these were under 1 year of age.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The following table gives the number of immunisations carried out during the year.

Children born during the year:

	1961	60	59	58	57	52-6	47-51	Total
Primary immunisation	6	28	5	6	2	4	3	54
Reinforcing injections						38	14	52

The group immunity is satisfactory.

Tuberculosis The total number of cases on the register at 31st December 1961 was as follows:- (the figures in brackets are those for 1960)

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary ...	11 (12)	7 (9)	18 (21)
Non-pulmonary ...	1 (1)	3 (2)	4 (3)

The scheme for the protection of the 13 year old children was continued with the following results :-

Number skin tested ...	247
Number Reactors ...	16 (6.5%)
Number given B.C.G. Vaccine	231
Number X-rayed ...	210

There were no abnormalities.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

Ample vaccine was available throughout the year and the number of people vaccinated is now over 600. The older age groups are not well protected.

FACTORIES ACT 1937 and 1948.

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including visits made by the Public Health Inspector)

PREMISES	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices Occupiers prosecuted
I. Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	3	8	—
II. Factories not included in (I) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	10	10	—
TOTAL	13	18	—

2. **Cases in which defects were found.**

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	Remedies by informal action
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	